

Message Text

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SUBJECT: FIB KULTURFRONT ARTICLE ON SWEDISH GOVERNMENT PAYMENTS TO
US AIR FORCE GENERAL

REF: STOCKHOLM 5009

1. EMBASSY HAS PROCURED AND TRANSLATED ADVANCE COPY OF FIB KULTURFRONT ARTICLE ENTITLED "SECRET MONEY FOR AN AMERICAN GENERAL" BY JAN GUILLOU. STORY HAS BEEN TO GREAT EXTENT PRE-EMPTED BY PREVIOUS NEWSPAPER ACCOUNTS, WITH PRIMARY PUBLIC INTEREST NOW FOCUSED ON REACTION TO THE ARTICLE. PERTINENT POINTS SUMMARIZED BELOW: TEXT BEING POUCHED.

2. FIB PUBLISHES WHAT IT TERMS "CONCLUSIVE EVIDENCE" THAT FROM 1970 TO 1973 OVER TWO MILLION KRONER (APPROXIMATELY \$480,000) WAS SECRETLY PAID TO GENERAL ROCKLY TRIANTAFELLU, CHIEF OF US AIR FORCE INTELLIGENCE, BY THE SWEDISH GOVERNMENT. REPORT IS PREFACED BY CAVEAT THAT "WE ARE NOT SPECULATING OVER THE CONCEIVABLE MOTIVES BEHIND THESE EXTRAORDINARY TRANSACTIONS. BUT...THE GOVERNMENT WILL HAVE TO ANSWER THE CHARGES."

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3. ARTICLE TRACES THE HISTORY OF MACHINATIONS AMONG THEN

MINISTER OF DEFENSE SVEN ANDERSSON AND OFFICIALS OF THE RIKSBANK (STATE BANK) AND ENSKILDABANKEN (A MAJOR COMMERCIAL BANK), WHICH MADE THE ACTUAL PAYMENTS. EMPHASIS WAS ON SECRECY AND HIDING THE TRANSACTION, AND ENSKILDABANKEN OFFICIALS WERE HESITANT ABOUT THE TRANSFER OF CURRENCY, BUT ANDERSSON "INSISTED" THAT PAYMENTS BE MADE IN \$100 BILLS. THE MAJOR PORTION, ABOUT \$25,000, WAS PASSED TO AIR ATTACHE COLONEL PAUL MONROE ON DECEMBER 23, 1970, AFTER THE BUREAUCRATIC DIFFICULTIES HAD BEEN RESOLVED. FIB NOTES THAT, ACCORDING TO BANK OFFICIALS, THE TRANSACTION DID NOT INVOLVE SMUGGLING IN THE LEGAL SENSE, SINCE THE ENTIRE AFFAIR WAS CONDUCTED WITH THE APPROVAL OF THE RIKSBANK AND ANDERSSON.

4. COLONEL MONROE IS DESCRIBED AS HAVING A "NORMAL CAREER," WITH "NO CIA CONNECTION." AS "BAGMEN," HE AND HIS SUCCESSOR COL. JOHN BURMAN FUNNELLED THE TWO MILLION KRONER TO GENERAL TRIANTAFELLU, WHO "RETIRED ... IN CONNECTION WITH THE FINAL PAYMENT. AFTER THAT THE TRAFFIC SEEMS TO HAVE COME TO A HALT."

5. TRIANTAFELLU, UPON BEING CONTACTED, ADMITTED RECEIVING MONEY FROM GOS, BUT REFUSED TO DISCUSS IT. ANDERSSON, ON THE OTHER HAND, ALONG WITH HIGH RIKSBANK OFFICIALS AT THE TIME, COMPLETELY DENIED THE REPORTS WHEN CONTACTED BY FIB. ARTICLE INCLUDES COPIES OF DOCUMENTS AND LETTERS WHICH IT SAYS REFUTE THE DENIALS.

6. FIB STATES IT IS CLEAR PAYMENTS WERE MADE, BUT ASKS WHAT WAS PURCHASED. "ONE FACT SEEMS CLEAR: ... THE MONEY WAS NOT 'PAYMENT FOR MERCHANDISE', ... THIS MONEY WAS RELATED TO SERVICES RENDERED OR INFORMATION." NO RECORDS OR CONNECTIONS CAN BE FOUND LINKING THE MONEY TO PURCHASE OF MATERIEL, ARTICLE CLAIMS, AND A DEFENSE MINISTRY OFFICIAL "STATES FIRMLY THAT THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY SORT OF PURCHASE OF MATERIEL ABROAD."

7. NOTING THAT THE MONEY HAS DISAPPEARED ENTIRELY FROM PUBLIC ACCOUNTS, FIB AGAIN POSES THE QUESTION OF WHAT

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WAS PURCHASED, AND CONCLUDES "WE PROBABLY SHALL NOT GET THE ANSWER TO THIS QUESTION UNTIL THESE ARTICLES ARE PUBLISHED IN FIB AND THE WASHINGTON POST. IN THE MEANTIME WE REFRAIN FROM ALL CONJECTURE."
SMITH

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